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Learning an L2 and L3 at the same time: Help or hinder?

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Learning an L2 and L3 at the same time: Help or hinder?

Ting Huang



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The research reported in this thesis has been carried out under the auspices of the Center for Language and Cognition Groningen (CLCG) of the Faculty of Arts of the University of Groningen.



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university of
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Learning an L2 and L3 at the same time: Help or hinder?

PhD thesis

to obtain the degree of PhD at the
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on the authority of the
Rector Magnificus Prof. C. Wijmenga
and in accordance with
the decision by the College of Deans.

This thesis will be defended in public on

Monday 19 October 2020 at 9.00 hours

by

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Ten years ago, I was enrolled in the bi-foreign-language program at the Taiyuan University of Technology for my undergraduate study. I and my peer students were the second class enrolled in this program ever since its establishment in 2009. During those undergraduate years, I had a difficult time keeping the balance between English and Japanese. Compared to English majors, we English and Japanese majors had much less time for English outside of the classroom because we had Japanese to cater to. Therefore, I was constantly doubting whether it was the right decision to choose this program. I feel proud that I can investigate this phenomenon later on in a Ph.D. project. Now I have an answer to my doubts about choosing to learn two foreign languages at the same time: It was the right decision.

Such a conclusion is drawn after years of questioning, exploring, and hard working. I am lucky that I was encouraged and supported by many along this journey. My greatest and deepest gratitude goes to my supervisors, prof. Marjolijn Verspoor and dr. Rasmus Steinkrauss, without their help, it is not possible to finish this project. If a Ph.D. is a long voyage full of both fulfilling and frustrating moments, then Marjolijn has been the Captain of our crew, keeping us sail in the right direction. Rasmus has been the Mate of our team, guiding me, the sailor, from day to day. They not only guide me in designing and carrying out the research, writing and publishing the work, but also encourage and inspire me in many aspects. In daily life, Rasmus is also a dear friend whom I trust and can always turn to. The EuroSLA trip to Münster with Marjolijn, Kees, and Sirkku is one of my best memories ever. Along this Ph.D. journey, I have always felt fully supported, which is, I believe, very important for a young researcher to grow.

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Perpignan, France

July 2020

黄婷(Huang Ting)

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